

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the changes is replete throughout the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. Any changes made are without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of any previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells, said method comprising the step of exposing one or more cells to a cytotoxic agent for a sufficient time and at a sufficient temperature to induce apoptosis of said one or more cells, said cytotoxic agent consisting of a targeting moiety and an avidin moiety wherein said targeting moiety is capable of binding to one or more of said cells.

2. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 1 wherein said cells are liquid or solid tumor cells

3. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 2 wherein said liquid or solid tumor cells are cancerous.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis according to claim 1 wherein said targeting moiety binds to a cell surface protein or carbohydrate.

5. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 1 wherein said targeting moiety is capable of binding to one or more growth factor receptors located on said cells.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 1 wherein said cells are in vivo.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cell according to claim 1 wherein said cells are in vitro.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 1 wherein said targeting moiety comprises an antibody, antibody fragment, scFv or a ligand.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 1 wherein said avidin moiety comprises molecules selected from the group consisting of avidin and avidin analogues.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis in cells according to claim 8 wherein said avidin moiety comprises two molecules selected from the group consisting of avidin and avidin analogues.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing apoptosis according to claim 1 wherein said cytotoxic agent is a fusion protein.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a proliferating cell population, said method comprising the step of exposing said cell population to a cytotoxic agent for a sufficient time and at a sufficient temperature to inhibit proliferation of said proliferating cell population, said cytotoxic agent consisting of a targeting moiety and an avidin moiety wherein said targeting moiety is capable of binding to one or more of said cells.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said cell population comprises liquid or solid tumor cells.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 13 wherein said liquid or solid tumor cells are cancerous.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said targeting moiety binds to a cell surface protein or carbohydrate.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said targeting moiety is capable of binding to one or more growth factor receptors located on said cells.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said cell population is in vivo.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said cell population is in vitro.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said targeting moiety comprises an antibody, antibody fragment, scFv or a ligand.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said avidin moiety comprises molecules selected from the group consisting of avidin and avidin analogues.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said avidin moiety comprises two molecules selected from the group consisting of avidin and avidin analogues.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cell population according to claim 12 wherein said cytotoxic agent is a fusion protein.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A composition for use in treating human cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation wherein said cells include cell surface proteins or carbohydrates, said composition comprising: a cytotoxic agent comprising an antibody a targeting moiety and an avidin moiety wherein said ~~targeting~~ antibody moiety is capable of binding to one or more of said cell surface proteins or carbohydrates; one or more of said cells; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; wherein said composition does not comprise biotin or a biotinylated molecule.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation according to claim 23 wherein said targeting moiety comprises an ~~antibody~~, antibody fragment, ~~scFv or ligand~~.

25. **(Previously Presented)** A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation according to claim 23 wherein said avidin moiety comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of avidin and avidin analogues.

26. **(Original)** A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation according to claim 23 wherein said cell surface protein or carbohydrate is a growth factor receptor.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation according to claim 23 or 24 wherein said antibody is an anti-transferrin receptor antibody.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or ~~inhibits~~ **inhibit** cell proliferation according to claim 23 wherein said ~~targeting~~ antibody moiety is a fusion protein.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation according to claim 23 wherein said ~~targeting~~

antibody moiety is chemically conjugated to the avidin moiety.

30. (Previously Presented) A composition for use in treating cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation according to claim 23 wherein said avidin moiety is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, neutra-avidin, lite-avidin, and neutra-lite avidin.

31. (New) A composition for use in treating human cells to induce apoptosis and/or inhibit cell proliferation wherein said cells include cell surface proteins or carbohydrates, said composition comprising: a cytotoxic agent comprising an antibody moiety and an avidin moiety wherein said antibody moiety is capable of binding to one or more of said cell surface proteins or carbohydrates; one or more of said cells; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; wherein said cytotoxic agent does not comprise biotin or a biotinylated molecule.